



Minutes

City Council's Neighborhood Quality of Life, Public Safety, & Parks and Recreation Committee

October 18, 2006

Minutes of the City Council's Neighborhood Quality of Life, Public Safety, & Parks and Recreation Committee held on Wednesday, October 18, 2006, 3:30 p.m., at the Tempe City Hall, 3rd Floor Conference Room, 31 E. 5th Street, Tempe, Arizona.

Committee Members Present:

Councilmember Ben Arredondo, Chair
Councilmember Onnie Shekerjian

City Staff Present:

Jim Bond, Principal Civil Engineer
Lisa Collins, Deputy Dev Svcs Manager
Carlos de Leon, Deputy Public Works Mgr
Travis Dray, Deputy Mgr Recreation
Jim Gaintner, Assistant Fire Chief
Jerry Hart, Financial Services Manager
Shelley Hearn, Community Relations Manager
Gina Huerta, Assistant City Attorney
Glenn Kephart, Public Works Manager
Mark Perkovich, Police Dept. Commander
Mark Richwine, Parks and Recreation Manager
Nancy Ryan, Rio Salado Manager
Marc Scott, Asst Chief/Fire Marshal
Michael Spencer, Sr. Code Inspector Specialist
Julie Stennerson, Executive Asst
Judy Tapscott, Community Svcs Deputy Mgr
Sam Thompson, Deputy Mgr Parks
Shauna Warner, Neighborhood Svcs Director

Guests Present:

Morgan Anderson, ASU
Gene Andres, resident
Kent Durree, ASU
Julia Glanino, ASU
Cheryl Hornyman, TCC
Darlene Justus, resident
Joe Pospicil, resident
Isabel Ruiz, resident
Stephanie Salazar, ASU
Stuart Siefer, resident
Millie Swick, resident
Kathy Tershowski, resident
Darlene Tussing, resident
Steve Wise, TCC

Councilmember Ben Arredondo called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

Agenda Item 1 – Discussion of the Committee's Action Plan

Councilmember Arredondo asked the Committee to review the Draft Action Plan. Proposed changes should be submitted to Shauna Warner.

CONSENSUS: The Action Plan will be forwarded to the full City Council for adoption at the November 2, 2006 Issue Review Session.

Agenda Item 2 – Neighborhood Park Renovation and Restoration Program

Mark Richwine stated that staff gave a presentation to the City Council at the September 7th Issue Review Session regarding park renovations. A form was distributed with objective criteria to help evaluate the parks and rank the priority order for improvements. Items being scored for each park include: ADA Compliance, Lighting/Electrical, Usage Impact, Playground, Sports Field/Court, Irrigation, and General Condition.

The top five parks recommended for improvements currently have a Master Plan completed or in progress.

- Hudson Park – Master Plan Completed 2002
- Canal Park – Master Plan Completed 2003
- Daley Park – Master Plan Completed 2005
- Scudder Park – Master Plan in Progress 2006-07
- Goodwin Park – Master Plan in Progress 2006-07

In the upcoming budget process, Parks and Recreation will be preparing a request to accelerate the number of parks being renovated from two to four parks annually.

CONSENSUS: The Parks and Recreation Board will be evaluating the parks to make recommendations for renovations. This will help identify which parks will be renovated each year in the budget process. This item should be placed on the agenda next month, and then presented to Council at an IRS Session.

Agenda Item 3 – Request for Hudson Park Construction Documents Funding

Mark Richwine stated that staff is seeking direction on consideration of a recommendation to approve the use of existing fund balances within the Parks and Recreation CIP for the development of construction documents for Hudson Park. Approving this request will allow staff to have completed plans and begin construction in a timely manner in FY 07/08, should Council approve the department's CIP request in the coming budget process.

CONSENSUS: Staff should move forward with funding Hudson Park construction documents.

Agenda Item 4 – Parks Board Recommendation to Re-name Canal Park to Evelyn Hallman Park

The Parks and Recreation Board received a request from members of the North Tempe Neighborhood Association (NTNA) to consider re-naming north Tempe's Canal Park in honor of long time civic leader Evelyn Hallman. The Parks and Recreation Board reviewed the request at their September 12, 2006, meeting where they moved and approved to send a recommendation to the Tempe City Council to re-name the park.

CONSENSUS: Councilmember Arredondo recommended forwarding this request to City Council. Mark Richwine will prepare the Staff Summary Report to have this item placed on the November 2nd City Council Meeting Agenda.

Agenda Item 5 – Discussion of Deferred Presentation Company (Payday Loan Centers) – Distance and Separation Requirements CHH

Lisa Collins discussed Deferred Presentation Companies. On December 1, 2005, the City Council approved new zoning criteria for deferred presentation companies (pay day loans). The new criteria required businesses to obtain a use permit through a public hearing process and to maintain a separation of 1,320 feet between same uses.

Since the approval of the new process requirements, the City has processed four use permits for deferred presentation companies. Three were approved at the initial hearings and one was appealed to the Development Review Commission where it was approved.

An amendment to the current criteria to require additional distance separation from residential zoning district is being researched.

CONSENSUS: An Ordinance should be drafted with the tightest restrictions for Non-Chartered Financial Institutions (checks cashed/loan till payday companies). Text amendments will need to go to the Development Review Commission. This item should be placed on the City Council Agenda by December.

Agenda Item 6 – Review of the Fire Department's Five Year Plan 0605-07

Cliff Jones reviewed the Fire Department's Five Year Strategic Plan and Operational Guide. The plan is intended to serve as a guide toward the development of the Department over the next five years. It is informative to Fire Department members of their Department's future. Additionally, it will serve as a foundation document to inform policy makers about the services, activities, and needs of the Department and to address the budget process.

Agenda Item 7 – Discussion of Fire Department's Re-Accreditation Process 0605-07

Cliff Jones discussed the Fire Department's Accreditation. The Tempe Fire Department became the first Internationally Accredited Fire Department in 1997. The Award of Accredited Status to an agency is for a five-year period. In 2002, the Fire Department was awarded re-accreditation by the Commission on Fire Accreditation International.

Fire Service Accreditation is a process involving a comprehensive self assessment which is completed by the department. This is followed by a site visit of fire service experts from jurisdictions of similar size from around the country. Following the site visit, the team makes a comprehensive report along with a recommendation to the Commission. The Commission reviews the report and the recommendation, and votes to Accredite, Defer for future consideration following upgrades, or Not-Accredit.

The Tempe Fire Department will apply for Re-accreditation again in 2007.

Agenda Item 8 – Future Agenda Items

Neighborhood Park Renovation and Restoration Program (Mark Richwine)
ASU (Stephanie Salazar)

Meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Prepared by: Julie Stennerson
Reviewed by: Connie Krosschell



Connie Krosschell
Acting City Clerk